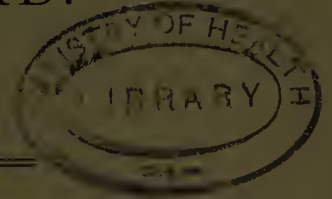


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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF DARTFORD.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1925.

T. FARTHING,
Medical Officer of Health.

Urban District Council of Dartford.

Annual Report for 1925 of the Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
DARTFORD,

April, 1926.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925.

The Report is arranged in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health and coming at the end of a five yearly period is a Survey Report.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	4,242
Population (Registrar-General's estimated figure)	27,160
Population (Census, 1921)	25,952
Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1921)	4,475
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census, 1921)	4,956
Rateable Value for General District Rate	£157,421
„ „ „ Poor Rate	£161,114
Sum represented by a 1d. rate :—	
General District Rate	£617
Poor Rate	£633

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Urban District of Dartford is chiefly of an industrial character and is situated in one of the North-West Kent Valleys. The acreage of the district is 4,242 statute acres.

The old town and the main industrial area are situate in the valley, and the newer, chiefly residential areas, on the rising ground to the East and West.

It is bounded on the North by the River Thames and the River Darent runs through the centre of the district.

There is in addition to the ordinary population a large institutional population as the following institutions are situate in the District:—

Metropolitan Asylums Board Hospitals, Joyce Green, Orchard and Long Reach.

London County Mental Hospital, Bexley.

The Dartford Board of Guardians Institution.

St. Vincent's Industrial School.

STAPLE INDUSTRIES.

The Staple Industries of the district are:—

- Engineering.
- Paper-making.
- Chemical Manufactory.
- Leather Tanning.
- Silk Printing.
- Flour Milling.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR, 1925.

				Total.	Males.	Females.
Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	334	172	162
„ Illegitimate	...	...	...	7	5	2
Birth Rate, 12.55.						

10 cases of still-births occurred during the year.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period is 18.3

				Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths	...	...	...	251	141	110
Death Rate, 9.24.						

The Death Rate for England and Wales for the year is 12.2.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Child Birth—Total, 1.
From Sepsis, nil; from other causes, 1.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1925.

Deaths of infants under one year of age :

Total, 20; Legitimate, 17; Illegitimate, 3.

The Infantile Death Rate for 1925 is 58.65, as compared with 79.08 for the previous year.

The Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales for 1925 is 75.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	4
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	0



SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1921—5.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Population (Registrar General's estimated figure.)	26,350	26,400	26,570	27,190	27,160
Births... ..	482	428	430	392	341
Birth Rate	18.29	16.21	16.18	14.41	12.55
Still-births	22	22	23	15	10
Birth Rate (England & Wales.)	22.4	20.6	19.7	18.8	18.3
Deaths	288	221	221	240	251
Death Rate	10.93	8.37	8.39	8.82	9.24
Death Rate (England & Wales.)	12.1	12.9	11.6	12.2	12.2
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	26	29	23	31	20
Infantile Death Rate ...	53.94	67.75	53.48	79.08	58.65
Infantile Death Rate (England & Wales.)	83	77	69	75	75

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	Certified		5	...	1	...	6	5	4	2	2	19
	Uncertified		1	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Erysipelas..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	5
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital malformation	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature birth	...	...	6	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	6
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Totals			6	0	1	0	7	5	4	2	2	20

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN DARTFORD URBAN DISTRICT
DURING THE YEAR.**

Causes of Death.								Males.	Females.
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	141	110
1. Enteric Fever	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	—	—
2. Small Pox	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
4. Scarlet Fever	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2

Causes of Death.							Males.	Females.
6.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
7.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
8.	Encaphalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	17	12
11.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12.	Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	...	19	11
13.	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	7	12
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	30	22
17.	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
18.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	8	9
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	7	8
20.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
21.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
22.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
23.	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
24.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
25.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
26.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27.	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
28.	Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
29.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
30.	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
31.	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	21	13
32.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

POOR LAW RELIEF.

I am indebted to the Clerk to the Dartford Board of Guardians for the following particulars regarding the amount of relief granted during 1925 and the medical services of the Dartford Board of Guardians so far as they relate to the Dartford Urban District.

Cost of maintenance of inmates in Institution and patients in Hospital	£10,413
Outdoor Relief	£6,064
Unemployment Relief	£2,600

327 patients were admitted to the King Edward Avenue Hospital (under the control of the Dartford Board of Guardians) from the parish of Dartford during the year ended 31st December, 1925.

The majority of patients are treated free, some pay according to their means and a few pay full charges.

Medical Relief was granted by the Relieving Officer to 120 Unemployment Cases during the same period. In all cases of ordinary Outdoor Relief a medical card is issued and in case of sickness of any member of the family the District Medical Officer is called in and it would probably be a generous average to say out of the 750 persons on these cards that about 50 per cent. of them would receive medical attention.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

(A) HOME NURSING.

The Dartford District Nursing Association, supported by voluntary contributions, maintains three District Nurses.

The Council make a grant to this Association and in return the services of the Nurses are available for the home nursing of cases of Measles, Whooping Cough and cases referred by the Child Welfare Clinic.

(B) MIDWIVES.

There are six midwives practising in the town, each of whom act as workers at the Child Welfare Clinic. I am glad to report that their interest and attendance is very good.

(C) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following are the Clinics and treatment centres in the town:—

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre	...	Maintained by the Council.
School Clinic, Kent Road		} Maintained by the Kent County Council.
Tuberculosis Clinic, Overy Street		
Venereal Clinic, King Edward Avenue Hospital	...	

(D) HOSPITALS.

(i). FEVER.—Bow Arrow Hospital, accommodation 88 beds, available for Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and selected cases of Measles under the control of the Dartford Joint Hospital Committee.

Cases of Small Pox are admitted into the Metropolitan Asylums Board Hospital, Joyce Green.

(ii). GENERAL.—The Livingstone Hospital, accommodation 32 beds, maintained by voluntary contributions, not subsidised by the Local Authority.

Private patients are also received at the King Edward Avenue Hospital, which is under the control of the Dartford Board of Guardians.

LABORATORY WORK.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

This work is carried out at the Kent County Council Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

During the year the following specimens were submitted for diagnosis:—

Diphtheria swabs	...	...	...	...	215
Tuberculosis sputum	...	...	...	...	99
Typhoid Widal test	...	...	...	...	1
Water samples (for Chemical Analysis)	...	...	...	...	2

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Parts 2, 3 and 5.

Adopted 2nd January, 1891.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Adopted 7th February, 1902.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Adopted 2nd October, 1912.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Sections 18, 19, 21, 22, 26 and 33 in Part 2	...	} Adopted 2nd April, 1909.
Sections 37, 48, 50 and 51 in Part 3		
Sections 60, 62, 65 and 68 in Part 4		
Whole of Part 5		
„ „ Part 6		

Sections 79, 80, 85 and 86 in Part 7		} Adopted 19th March, 1909.
Section 90 in Part 8		

Section 95 in Part 10 Adopted 4th Jan., 1913.

Public Health Act, 1925, Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5 adapted 2nd December, 1925.

The Dartford Improvement Act, 1902, contains clauses relating to Drainage, Milk Supply and Infectious Diseases.

There are also in force in the district Bye-Laws regarding:—

Common Lodging Houses.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Nuisances.

Offensive Trades.

Public Sanitary Conveniences.

Slaughterhouses.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

And Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board. The water is obtained from deep wells sunk in the chalk, is therefore hard in character but of very good quality.

With the exception of a few isolated houses in the rural portions of the district, the whole of the houses are connected to the Metropolitan Water Board's mains.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

One case of pollution of the Stanham Brook has been dealt with during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Dartford Urban District Council is one of the constituent authorities of the West Kent Main Sewerage Board who treat the sewage of a number of the districts which lie to the South East of London. The disposal works of this Board are situated within the district on the southern bank of the Thames at Long Reach. These works have recently been reconstructed and reorganised at considerable cost.

Dartford is main sewered. There are only 68 houses in isolated parts of the district not connected to the public sewers.

No extension of the sewerage system has been carried out during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The system is a water carriage one. In the more rural portions of the area where main sewers are not available, there are the following houses with conveniences of the type mentioned:—

W.C's. connected to cesspools	...	...	...	...	44
Pail closets	...	...	...	...	21
Privies and earth closets	...	...	...	...	3

The cleansing of cesspools and pail closets is not carried out by the Local Authority but by the owners or occupiers of the premises.

SCAVENGING.

A weekly collection of house refuse is made in the district and in the central portion of the district, twice weekly.

The refuse is destroyed at the Council's destructor.

Since the last Survey Report a small destructor has been installed and is maintained by the Council at the Bexley Mental Hospital for dealing with the refuse from this Institution which was previously tipped.

During the year 27 ashbins have been provided in lieu of open brick ashpits.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

This is dealt with in the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector which is appended hereto.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

There are nine public elementary schools in the district. These are well lighted and ventilated, and the water and sanitary conditions are generally satisfactory.

HOUSING.

The number of new houses completed during 1925 was 204, of which 124 were erected by the Council on the Lowfield Street Estate and 4 in Shenley Road.

The numbers of houses completed during the five years since the last Survey Report are as follows:—

	By the Council.	Private enterprise.	Total.
1921	22	3	25
1922	28	15	43
1923	—	21	21
1924	28	30	58
1925	128	76	204

It will be seen from these figures that 1925 marks a real step forward in the provision of houses for the inhabitants of the district. The average yearly number of working class houses built in the five pre-war years was 53, so that in 1921, 1922 and 1923 the number of houses built did not reach this figure, and it is only in 1925 that the average has been maintained and in addition anything done to wipe off the arrears caused by the cessation of house building during the war period.

The shortage of housing accommodation caused by this has been reduced to a certain extent by the Council's Housing Schemes but the need for more working class houses is still great.

The shortage of houses has the following effect:—

- (1) Actual overcrowding of many of the existing houses.
- (2) There are many cases where two families are living in one house without actual overcrowding but both families desire a house for themselves, such when a member of a family marries and through lack of accommodation the new family cannot establish a home of their own.
- (3) The shortage holds up the work of dealing with the worn out and most insanitary property in the town owing to lack of accommodation for the tenants who would be dispossessed by the making of Closing Orders on this class of house.

During the year the Council commenced building four two bedroom type houses in St. Vincent's Road. Up to this time the houses built by them have been three or four bedroom type houses, which unfortunately as, I stated in my report for 1924, are not suitable for the majority of the tenants of the houses referred to in the preceding paragraph (3), by reason of the rent that has to be charged and also owing to the fact that these old houses have in most cases only one or two bedrooms and in many instances are occupied by families who do not require a larger house. I am pleased, however, to note that the Council are at present building a further eighteen two bedroom houses on the Lowfield Street Site.

With regard to the existing housing accommodation in November 1923 I presented to the Health Committee a report setting out a list of houses which should be dealt with under the Housing Acts by Closing Orders, and in cases where it was not possible to bring the houses up to a reasonable standard of habitation by Demolition Order.

Many of these houses are very old and dilapidated and by reason of their situation, age and the extent of the dilapidation, cannot be repaired. The Council have been unable to deal with these houses on account of the housing shortage.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING WORK DURING THE YEAR.

(AS REQUIRED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.)

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	204
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts,							
(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	50

UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

(1) INSPECTION.

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	414
(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910						213
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
(d) Number of dwelling-houses under (B) (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	123

(2) **REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.**

Number of defective dwelling-houses under (a) and (b) rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... Nil

(3) **ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.**

(1) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 :

(a) Houses in respect of which notices were served ... Nil
(b) Number of Houses in which defects were remedied :
(i) By owners ... Nil
(ii) By Local Authorities in default of owners ... 2

(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 13
(b) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—
(i) By owners ... 14
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(3) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909 :—

(a) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... Nil
(b) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
(c) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... Nil
(d) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
(e) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil
(f) Number of dwelling-houses demolished other than by Demolition Order ... 6

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The taking of samples under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts is carried out by the Kent County Council, and the County Council being also the Authority under the Contagious Diseases Animals Acts carries out the work under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

One licence as a Distributor of Grade A Milk is in force in the district and the periodical samples taken and submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination have all been up to the required standard.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, have largely increased the work of the department. There are two Registered Slaughterhouses in the district and the amount of slaughtering at them has considerably increased since the new regulations came into force. The notification of slaughter has proceeded quite satisfactorily during the year.

There is only one butcher's stall in the district and this has been altered so as to comply with the regulations.

Systematic inspection is made of the dairies, cowsheds, milkshops and bakehouses and other premises where food is prepared.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of each of the principal infectious diseases during the Survey Period is set out under their respective headings. The numbers given are for ordinary population. (Excluding Institutions).

DIPHTHERIA.

1921	...	...	...	221 cases.
1922	...	...	...	60 „
1923	...	...	...	13 „
1924	...	...	...	18 „
1925	...	...	...	37 „

The year 1922 marked a decided decline from the epidemic figures of 1920 and 1921.

The number of cases for 1923 was the lowest since 1907.

In 1920 a system of extensive swabbing of contacts with cases notified and of children with suspicious throats, referred to the department by the Head teachers of the local Schools, was instituted. This has had the effect of discovering carriers who are then segregated until two consecutive negative swabs have been obtained. This has probably been partly responsible for the low figures in some of the years.

Anti-toxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners for use in cases of Diphtheria.

SCARLET FEVER.

1921	...	...	...	206 cases.
1922	...	...	...	114 „
1923	...	...	...	27 „
1924	...	...	...	60 „
1925	...	...	...	47 „

The years 1920 and 1921 produced the highest figures ever recorded in the District.

The year 1923 was the lowest since 1911.

SMALL POX.

During the latter part of the five year period the disease has been very prevalent in many parts of the country. There has been, however, only one outbreak in this district during the period, viz.: in 1922 when the number of cases was seven, two of which were fatal.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The cases of Enteric Fever that have occurred during the five years have been notified from Institutions in the district, with the exception of one case during 1925. The subsequent history of this case did not support the notification.

CANCER.

This disease is not notifiable but an idea of its prevalence can be obtained from the following numbers of deaths from the disease since 1921.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Percentage of total deaths.
1921	27	9.37
1922	20	9.05
1923	26	11.76
1924	33	13.75
1925	30	11.95

Dr. A. Greenwood, County Medical Officer, gave a lecture on this subject in the Scala Theatre on October 8th, 1924, which was very well attended.

DISINFECTION.

Upon removal of cases of infectious diseases to Hospital or upon recovery of cases nursed at home, the rooms are disinfected with formalin or sulphur di-oxide and the bedding removed for steam disinfection.

Disinfection is also carried out after death from tuberculosis and if requested after death from cancer.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.
Diphtheria	37	...	2	1	2	2	13	8	4	4	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever	47	...	...	2	...	5	19	13	3	3	...	2	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Enccephalitis Lethargica	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	14	3	...	1	1	1	2	...	1	...	1	2	2
Erysipelas	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	4	...
Measles	325	5	10	10	12	21	195	53	10	5	4	...	...
Chicken Pox	34	...	1	...	1	4	25	3	...	...	...	...	...

CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.

Of the cases notified, 35 cases of Diphtheria and 38 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Hospital. Also 2 cases of suspected Diphtheria were admitted for observation and were later found not to be suffering from Diphtheria.

In addition, the following have been notified from various Institutions:—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.
Diphtheria	13	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	8	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	9	13	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pneumonia	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	11	5
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Measles	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enccephalitis Lethargica	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...

There have been no cases of Tuberculosis notified from resident Staff of the Institutions in the district. Notifications relating to patients are transferred to the district in which they are domiciled.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE.	Total Deaths.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.
Diphtheria	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	15	5	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	4
Measles	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives details of the cases notified and deaths occurring during during the year.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	1	2	3	..	...	...	...
10—15	...	3	1	3	...	1	...	...
15—20	3	2	1	...	2	2	...	...
20—25	3	4	...	...	...	3	...	...
25—35	3	4	...	1	5	4	...	...
35—45	9	1	...	...	3	2	...	...
45—55	7	1	...	...	6	...	...	...
55—65	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 & upwards	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals... ..	28	16	4	8	17	12	...	...

Table of notifications and deaths from Tuberculosis 1921-5.

	Notifications.		Deaths.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary
1921	31	5	21	4
1922	30	6	14	6
1923	28	6	21	4
1924	44	15	19	5
1925	44	12	29	...

11 of the 56 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, and 6 cases notified previous to 1925 were removed to Sanatoria for treatment during the year.

Previous notification of the disease was not received with regard to six of the deaths occurring during the year.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924, returns have to be made quarterly to the County Medical Officer, giving a summary of the Tuberculosis Register for the District.

The following is a statement of the number of cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year :—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Number on Register at commencement of Year	73	55	3	10	141
Number on Register at end of year ...	86	56	5	15	162

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Unofficial action was taken with regard to one case.

SECTION 62, PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925.

This Section was adopted 2nd December, 1925, and came into force 4th January, 1926.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Kent County Council is the Authority dealing with this group of diseases.

During the year the Public Health Department co-operated with the County Council and the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases in the organisation of a series of four lectures at the Scala Theatre as follows :—

- 9th and 12th February for men and women.
- 10th February for men only.
- 11th February for women only.

The lectures were well attended and appeared to be very much appreciated by the public.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

During the five years since the last Survey Report this work has been centralised and extended.

Prior to August 1921 the Clinics were held in hired rooms in various parts of the town. From that date they were centralised in the Central Park Hut which was purchased and adapted by the Council for the purpose and Dr. Ethel Dukes was appointed Medical Officer.

The Anti-Natal Clinic was separated from the ordinary Clinic on September 5th, 1923, and is now held once fortnightly as a separate Clinic.

The Child Welfare Clinics are held on three afternoons each week.

In addition to the above the Council have organised various schemes for the welfare of the mothers and children.

- (1) **Grants of Milk**, free or at less than cost price, to necessitous cases under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders of 1919 and 1921.
- (2) **Maternity Home**, arrangements are made for the admission of cases into the British Home for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich, and financial assistance given accordingly to scale of income.
- (3) **Dental Treatment**, to Mothers and Children. The Council have approved of a scheme of assistance according to income, to provide necessary dental treatment.
- (4) **Seaside Convalescent Home**. Arrangements have been made with the Metropolitan Convalescent Institution for the reception of Children up to the age of 5 years attending the Child Welfare Clinics into this Home at Broadstairs.

The following table shows the amounts of fresh and dried milk granted under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders, of 1919 and 1921 during the five years:—

	Fresh Milk.	Dried Milk.
1921	37,190 pints	533 lbs.
1922	33,184 „	397 „
1923	28,854 „	115 „
1924	15,081 „	163 „
1925	7,112 „	115 „

VISITS OF HEALTH VISITOR.

The following visits were paid by your Health Visitor during the year:—

Number of new-born infants visited	...	...	...	...	265
Number of visits to infants under one year	...	...	...	...	1,429
Number of children on register over one year	...	...	...	...	1,149
Number of visits to children over one year	...	...	...	...	3,498
Total visits	...	...	...	...	4,927

In addition to these visits the following have been paid: —

Ante-Natal visits (Individual)	...	...	...	...	80
Measles „	...	...	...	...	21
Death enquiries	...	...	...	...	7

CLINICS.

The attendance during the year has been well maintained.

The number of infants registered at the Clinic during the year was 597.
Boys, 344; Girls, 253.

Number of mothers attending the Clinics, 510.

Total attendances of mothers, 7,024.

Of the number of infants registered, 125 were under the age of three months on registration.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

26 Clinics were held, 104 expectant mothers attended, and made 286 attendances.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Three cases were notified during the year, one of which was admitted and treated in the Guardians' Institution.

The remaining cases were treated at home; all recovered without impairment of vision.

Particulars relating to other diseases of children and Puerperal fever, etc., will be found in the table relating to infectious diseases.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

The Kent County Council have under consideration at the present time a scheme for the treatment of Orthopaedic cases in the County. The Dartford Urban Council have been represented at the Conferences. They have approved of the principal and will co-operate in the scheme so far as it relates to children under school age.

STAFF.

*DR. T. FARTHING, M.B. (Edin.)—Medical Officer of Health (part time); also Medical Officer, Dartford Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dartford.

*DR. ETHEL DUKES, L.R.C.P. and S., Medical Officer of Child Welfare Clinics, Dartford, U.D.C.; also Clinical Assistant, Out Patient Department, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.

*W. E. BALCHIN, A.M.I.S.E.—Sanitary Inspector (Certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and other Food Inspector); also Inspector under the Shops, Petroleum, and Hackney Carriage Acts.

*Miss A. A. BRIMBLE—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), 3 years Trained Nurse, C.M.B.
Miss E. SORRELL—Clerk to Department.

* Contribution to salary by Exchequer Grant.

Appended hereto are the following:—

- (1) Report of the Sanitary Inspector.
- (2) Report on the Inspection of Factories, Workshops, etc., in the District.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

T. FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report as follows on the Sanitary Inspection, etc., of the District for the year 1925 :—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE WORK.

Cases investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Rooms disinfected (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
„ „ (other Infectious Diseases)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Sets of bedding disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	136

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910.

Number of Houses systematically inspected and recorded	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	213
Notices re defects served on owners.								
Preliminary—Served 123; Complied with 112; in hand, Dec. 31st								44
Statutory— „ 15; „ 16; „ „								5
Houses put in order during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112

ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO OTHER NUISANCES FOUND.

Preliminary Notices served, 151; complied with, 155; in hand, Dec. 31st	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Statutory Notices „ 4; „ 5; „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

COMPLAINTS.

232 complaints of Nuisances, etc., have been received during the year and duly investigated and dealt with.

DRAINAGE.

Number of Drains smoke tested—New Premises, 116; Existing Premises, 7.								
„ „ „ water tested— „ „ 554; „ „								16
„ „ „ tested—Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	693
„ „ main drains cleared by the Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	209

INSPECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FOOD SUPPLY.

Slaughterhouses.

Number on Register—Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	225

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Purveyors Registered, Retail	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
„ „ Wholesale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of Cowsheds, 7; Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
No. of Dairies, 9; „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
No. of Milkshops, 6; „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
No. of Contraventions dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Milk (Special Designations) Order.

There is one Grade, A Distributors' Licence—in force in the District.

No. of Samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Meat and Other Food Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	264
Market Stall and Hawkers' Cart Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Fried Fish Shop Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49

UNSOUND FOOD DEALT WITH AND DESTROYED.

								cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat, Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	16
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	21
Organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	5
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	0
Total								11	2	14

LODGING HOUSES, &c.

Number of Lodging Houses on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Houses let in Lodgings on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of Fried Fish Shops on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ Rag and Bone Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Tanyards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Knacker's Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Stables, Yards, Piggeries, etc., Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Inspections re Tents, Vans, and Sheds Bye-Laws	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Re-inspections and Visits to Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	996
Visits re Applications for Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	193

NUISANCES REMEDIED AND WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE VARIOUS

NOTICES DURING THE YEAR.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Eaves, gutters and rainwater pipes, repaired and renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
External brickwork repaired, re-pointed or rendered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Damp wall remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
House or part of house cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Interior walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Defects in connection with water supply remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective floors and other woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Cooking or washing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Sink, etc., waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Gully fenders repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drains reconstructed (No. of houses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drains unstopped (by owners)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Defective vent shafts or fresh air inlets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Manholes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
W.C.'s reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective ashbins renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Ashbins substituted for open ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Nuisances from the keeping of animals remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Accumulations of manure or offensive refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER E. BALCHIN,

Sanitary Inspector.

**INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES,
INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY
INSPECTOR.**

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including factory laundries)	19	6	—
Workshops (including workshop laundries)	49	3	—
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises)	15	—	—
Total	83	9	—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			Number of Prose- cutions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	5	5	—	—
Want of cleanliness	—	1	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	5	5	—	—
Sanitary accommodation {	Insufficient	—	1	—
	Unsuitable or defective	2	3	—
	Not separate for sexes	1	1	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (S. 101).	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total	13	16	—	—

HOME WORK.

No. of lists of Outworkers received, 1. Inspections, 1.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

WORKSHOPS ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR.											Number.
Bakehouses*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cycle and Motor Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Total											58

* There are also 6 Factory Bakehouses in the District.

